

# MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

## NEWS

### Coming Meetings†

**California Medical Association.** Meetings will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-third annual session, to be held in 1944, Sunday, Monday, May 7-8.

**American Medical Association.** Sessions will be held in Chicago (not St. Louis) on June 12-16, 1944. (See *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, November 6, 1943, page 644.)

### The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coördinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

### Medical Broadcasts\*

**The Los Angeles County Medical Association:**

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays.

KFAC presents the Saturday program at 10:15 a. m., under the title "Your Doctor and You."

In December, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the dates of December 4, 11, and 18.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a. m., under the title "The Road of Health."

**"Doctors at War":**

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, in coöperation with the National Broadcasting Company and the Medical Department of the United States Army and the United States Navy, are on the air each Saturday at 2 p. m., Pacific War Time. Series will commence on January 8, 1944. Will run for twenty-six weeks.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

\* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

### Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians\*:

1. *Provocative:* E. G. Conklin's *Man: Real and Ideal* (Scribner's, New York, 1943) offers challenging observations and reflections on man's nature, development, and destiny, scientifically sound and artistically offered. H. E. Sigerist discusses the University's dilemma (*Bull. Hist. Med.*, 14:1, 1943) in facing the dangers to research. How about the danger of a scientific canon developed through control of the scientific journals by prejudiced editors?

2. *Psychiatry:* W. A. Bryan discusses *Administrative Psychiatry* (Norton, New York, 1943). A. Deutsch presents a history of the *Mentally Ill in America* (Doubleday, New York, 1943). Not as good as G. Zilboorg's *History of Medical Psychology* (Norton, New York, 1941) is J. K. Winkler's *Mind Explorers* (Reynal, New York, 1943). S. S. Tompkins edits a reprint collection on *Contemporary Psychopathology* (Harvard, 1943). Harvard also publishes S. Cobb's excellent *Borderlands of Psychiatry*. O. S. English and G. H. J. Pearson discuss *Common Neuroses of Children and Adults* (Norton, New York, 1943). H. R. Love offers an excellent summary on dyspeptic symptoms in soldiers (*Med. Jour. Australia*, 2:101, Aug. 7, 1943), showing that appropriate man management may reduce symptoms in two-thirds.

3. *Historical:* M. F. A. Montagu discusses Edward Tyson (1650-1708) and the rise of human anatomy in England (*Mém. Amer. Philo. Soc.*, 20:1-476, 1943). Interesting series of discussions on the early history of science and learning in America is sponsored by the American Philosophical Society (*Proc.*, 81:1, 87:1, 1943). The Society also offers its bit on postwar problems (*Proc.*, 87:2, 1943). L. T. Morton revises F. H. Garrison's *Medical Bibliography* (Grafton, London, 1943), with the usual omission of recent significant work. Oleanders (Galveston orchids) to Dr. and Mrs. F. A. Hitchcock for their translation of P. Bert's *Barometric Pressure: Researches in Experimental Physiology* (College Book Company, Columbus, Ohio, 1943).

4. *Antibiotics:* E. Chain, H. W. Florey & Co. gives an excellent report on helvolic acid derived from culture filtrates of *aspergillus fumigatus* (*Brit. Jour. Exp. Path.*, 24:108, 1943), with chemical work suggesting the possibility of synthesis of related compounds may be not too complex. Squibb offers a penicillin bibliography and set of abstracts. Squibb's Medical Journal Abstracts are a worthy printed continuance of the successful mimeographed series of long ago.

5. *Etc.:* H. Hurst discusses permeability and molecular constitution as factors in drug action (*Nature*, 152:292, Sept. 11, 1943). Vale to H. G. Barbour, productive to the end: He made excellent study on water shifts in deep hypothermia (*Amer. Jour. Physiol.*, 140:9, 1943). O. R. Klimmer offers a useful discussion of poisoning from combustion gases (*Arch. Exp. Path. Pharmacol.*, 201:69, 1943). N. G. Yu and Y. Y. Ying state that sternal puncture and the ephedrine provocative test are very helpful in diagnosing chronic malaria (*Chinese Med. Jour.*, 61:31, 1943). J. J. Izquierdo offers an excellent discussion of the importance of mathematics in physiology (*Gac. Med. Mexico*, 73:280, 1943). N. E. Maver and M. K. Barrett show

\* These items submitted by Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacologic Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

caphepsin difference between tumor and normal tissue (*Jour. Nat. Cancer*, 4:65, 1943).

**American Medical Association Scientific Exhibit: Palmer House, Chicago, June 12 to 16, 1944.**—The Scientific Exhibit at the Chicago session of the American Medical Association, June 12 to 16, 1944, will be held at the Palmer House. Exhibits will cover all phases of medicine and the medical sciences, with particular emphasis on graduate medical instruction for the physician in general practice.

Application blanks for space in the Scientific Exhibit are now available and may be obtained by communicating with the Director, Scientific Exhibit, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, 10, Ill.

**Nurses Adopt Standard Fee Schedule.**—A schedule of standard fees, to be charged everywhere in California, regardless of previously existing scales in various localities, was voted by the private duty section of the California State Nurses' Association recently at its convention in San Francisco.

The state-wide group, winding up its annual conference at the Fairmont Hotel, meanwhile elected Miss Edna B. Behrens, formerly of San Francisco's Franklin Hospital and now director of nursing at the Sonoma County College of Nursing, to serve its 13,000 members as president during the coming year.

The new fee scale for private duty nursing will be at the rate of \$8 for a standard eight-hour day shift, with the same charge for more than four hours but less than eight, and an additional \$1 for each hour of overtime. The scale from 11 p. m. to 7 a. m. or for any part of that period will be \$8. Scale for a similar period spent caring for alcoholics, violent mental cases or patients with communicable diseases will be \$9.

In action designed more fully to utilize the supply of private duty nurses, the group voted that one nurse may undertake the care of two patients, who will split the regular fee, with an additional \$1.50 to \$2 premium for an eight-hour shift. The group also voted to engage as "fully as possible" in staff replacement programs, as the hospitals where they are employed in private duty may need them.

**Lung Taken Out in Field Operation.**—Major Paul Samson, a well-known Oakland chest surgeon, recently performed, successfully, under adverse field conditions in Algiers, one of the most delicate operations ever attempted in such surroundings—complete removal of a man's lung, according to an Associated Press release recently.

The patient was a German soldier, so badly wounded by shell fragments in the chest that one lung had to be removed to save his life.

The Allied Headquarters surgeon's office said the patient now is alive and well.

"Although already performed many times in the United States and Britain," the surgeon's office said, "a total pneumonectomy under field and emergency conditions in a station hospital is a banner story for the annals of battlefield medicine."

**University of California Electron Microscope Installed.**—An electron microscope capable of magnifying objects up to 13,000 times has been installed at the University of California, and scientists at the Berkeley institution now are using the device.

The instrument is similar in principle to an ordinary microscope except that it substitutes electron beams for light and magnetic fields or electron lenses for optical lenses. The electron beams pass through a vacuum and are focused by the magnetic fields, it was explained.

The specimen to be examined is placed on a thin, plastic film within the vacuum and the electrons stream through, making a shadow on a fluorescent screen or photographic plate. The photographs taken on the machine may be enlarged 100,000 times compared with 2,000 times for those taken on the microscope using light beams, according to Dr. Charles W. Porter, chairman of the School's Committee on Research.

**Doctor Ratio in San Francisco: 1 to 600.**—San Francisco's medical needs are well taken care of—one physician to 600 persons—despite the fact that some 500 San Francisco doctors have entered the armed forces, it was announced recently by Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, State Chairman of the Procurement and Assignment Service.

San Francisco's ratio of doctors to civilians remains well above the national proportion, but more doctors under forty-five here will have to enter military service.

Of the Society's total membership, nearly one-third are in the service. Three of its members have been killed—Comdr. Eric Liljencrantz and Navy Lieutenants Allen A. Altman and Charles A. Rethers.

**Dr. George Thomason Elected President of the California State Board of Medical Examiners.**—Dr. George Thomason, head of the Department of General Surgery of the College of Medical Evangelists, at a meeting of the California State Board of Medical Examiners, October 18 to 21, was elected president of the Board. Doctor Thomason is now serving his sixth year as a member of the Board, having been appointed first by Governor Rolph in 1938. He was reappointed by Governor Olson in 1940.

**Barlow Society for the History on Medicine.**—Dr. Esther Rosencrantz, associate professor emeritus, University of California, delivered an address on the subject of "Sir William Osler" on November 18 before a combined meeting of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the Barlow Society for the History on Medicine. Many rare items from the Osler collection in the Crummer Library of the University of California Medical School were combined with items from the Los Angeles Medical Library to make a large and interesting Osler collection, which was available at the meeting for the inspection of the audience. Dr. George Dock, who was one of Doctor Osler's colleagues during the Pennsylvania period, added a recital of a journey made with the great physician in search of rare books. Doctor Rosencrantz was a member of one of the last classes taught at Johns Hopkins by Osler.

**Speakers on Narcotic Enforcement.**—The Division of Narcotic Enforcement of the Department of Penology of the State of California, with offices at 156 State Building, San Francisco, of which F. J. O'Ferrall is chief, has presented addresses through its representatives at the San Francisco County Medical Society, the University of California Medical School, Stanford University School of Medicine, and College of Medical Evangelists. The talks aimed to acquaint members of the profession with the many phases of work coming under the supervision of the California Division of Narcotic Enforcement. Program committees of county societies can obtain further information by writing to Chief F. J. O'Ferrall.

**The American Otorhinologic Society.**—This society was formed for the advancement of plastic and reconstructive surgery, and held its first annual meeting on November 12, in the New York Academy of Medicine.

A prerequisite for membership in this organization is that the applicant shall be a specialist with diplomate recognition. One of its primary purposes is to effect an increase

of facilities for reconstructive surgery, both through training to increase the skills of professional men generally, and through extending hospital accommodations. Demands for reconstructive surgery will be augmented after the war.

The Society aims to foster opportunities for surgeons generally, outside its membership, to increase their knowledge and skill to meet needs which are already becoming apparent.

Additional information may be secured from the secretary, Dr. Jacob Daley, 104 East Fortieth Street, New York 16, N. Y.

**United States Aid Sought for Laboratory.**—Renovation of Building No. 20 at the General Hospital at a cost of \$175,000 and its equipment as a laboratory and classroom for medical students may be made possible by a contribution of that amount from the Federal Works Administration, it was disclosed yesterday.

A. J. Will, County Superintendent of Charities, has requested permission from the Board of Supervisors to apply for the money needed, pointing out that the laboratory and classroom are needed. Will said that the building, if renovated and equipped, will be leased to the University of Southern California for the use of first and second-year medical students for a token fee.

At the close of the emergency, Will said, the building would revert to county service fully renovated and equipped.—Los Angeles Times, November 28.

**Heart Disease Toll to Mount.**—Medical science believes that for the first time it is coming to grips with rheumatic fever on something like even terms.

But heart diseases—rheumatic fever, high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries are the commonest and deadliest types—still constitute the nation's No. 1 killer and will increase in coming years.

These conclusions were reported on November 4 by Dr. Tinsley R. Harrison, heart specialist of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in San Francisco as guest speaker at the fourteenth annual postgraduate symposium on heart disease. The symposium was sponsored by the Heart Committee of the San Francisco Tuberculosis Association.

Lecturing at Stanford Hospital, Doctor Harrison presented the novel argument that there can be too much rest in some cases of heart disease.

"I believe rest is like any other treatment," he said. "You can overdo it. I know that most men in our field disagree with me."

One of his reasons for believing that rest can be "abused," he said, is that constant inactivity can tend to produce a querulous psychotic.

Reporting on rheumatic fever, which accounts for most cases of heart disease in persons under forty, Doctor Harrison said:

"Just in the past few years there has developed evidence that certain drugs of the sulfa and salicylate groups, used immediately after discovery of throat infection, are effective."

Since heart disease is, in most cases, an affliction of those past fifty, heart disease can be expected to increase as man's normal span of years is increased, the specialist said.

"And we're not going to make much progress against it until we know the causes of the heart disease," he added.

Doctor Harrison presented the view that liquor in small quantities does no harm to the patient with heart disease.

"What little evidence there is on the subject indicates that slight drinking would be more beneficial than harmful," he said. He defined slight drinking as drinking so light that there is no evidence of intoxication and no interference with eating habits.

## LETTERS<sup>†</sup>

### Concerning Consent to Operation Upon Married Women Under Twenty-One Years of Age:

(COPY)

San Francisco, November 24, 1943.

My dear Doctors:

We have been asked what consent should be obtained before performing medical or surgical operations upon married women under the age of twenty-one years, particularly those whose husbands are absent in military service.

California Civil Code, Section 204, provides that the authority of a parent ceases upon a Court appointment of a guardian of a child, upon the child's marriage, or upon its attaining majority. In view of this section, the consent of the parents of a girl under the age of twenty-one years is not sufficient to adequately protect a physician if the girl is married.

Civil Code, Section 25, provides that minors are all persons under twenty-one years of age, provided that any girl of the age of eighteen or over who has contracted a lawful marriage is deemed to be of the age of majority and an adult person for the purpose of entering into any transaction. Under this section the consent of the girl eighteen years of age or over, who is married and upon whom the operation is to be performed, is sufficient.

If the girl is less than eighteen years of age and is married, the consent of her husband should be obtained before any operation is performed upon her. If he is absent in military service, making it impossible to obtain his consent, in our opinion you should not perform any services other than emergency, in which event consent is presumed.

If you have any further questions, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

HARTLEY F. PEART.

### Concerning Recent Articles in "California and Western Medicine":

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF MEDICAL SERVICE

*A Nonpolitical, Nonprofit Organization for Maintaining  
Ethical and Scientific Standards and Extending  
Medical Service to All the People*

The Pittsfield Building, Chicago, Illinois

November 11, 1943.

*To the Editor:*—This will acknowledge receipt of and express appreciation for your valued letter of November 1 and the receipt of the August and October issues of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

May I congratulate you. The handling of the de Kruif opus is unusually good; comment on the Wagner-Murray Bill 1161 is clear-cut, concise, and effective. Thank you, Doctor Kress, for the kind references to N. P. C.

There can be no question but that we are moving forward to a point of final settlement. If we can maintain interest and sustain efforts that have been initiated, there can be little doubt as to the defeat of S. 1161, but more important, the prospect of permanently influencing the trend toward state control of medical service.

With the best of personal good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE FOR E. M. S.

(Signed) John M. Pratt,

Executive Administrator.

<sup>†</sup> CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.